

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



**Top Secret**

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imagery analysis report

**Wellington Probable High-Explosives  
Fabrication and Storage Facility  
South Africa (TSR)**

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IAR-A065/79  
OCTOBER 1979  
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## WELLINGTON PROBABLE HIGH-EXPLOSIVES FABRICATION AND STORAGE FACILITY, SOUTH AFRICA (TSR)

1. [REDACTED] Wellington Probable High-Explosives Fabrication and Storage Facility [REDACTED] is under construction in South Africa (Figure 1) approximately 7 nautical miles (nm) north-northeast of Wellington and 65 nm northeast of Cape Town. The function of the facility was determined through the analysis of construction techniques, the presence of storage bunkers, and the examination of available collateral information. [REDACTED]

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2. (TSR) Construction of the facility was first observed on imagery of [REDACTED] (Figure 1). The facility consisted of a rectangular fence-secured area of approximately 1,000 hectares. A storage area in the southeast corner of the facility contains ten roof-vented bunkers. On imagery of [REDACTED] five of these bunkers appeared to be externally complete (Figure 2). The bunkers, each approximately [REDACTED] were constructed of precast concrete arches and were then earth covered. Access to each bunker is provided by a single, relatively small, door. There does not appear to be a mechanism for loading or unloading near the entrances. The bunkers will probably be both road and rail served. This area will be separately fence secured.

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3. (TSR) In the northeast area of the facility, three large buildings are in the early-to-mid stage of construction. One of the buildings contains a probable drive-through foundation with a pipeline trench extending from it (Figure 3). It appears that the building contains extra thick walls and segmented cells in the lower level. The construction is supported by an onsite batch plant.

4. (TSR) In the support area, six large buildings, including a clerestory building, are in the early-to-mid stage of construction. Four other buildings, including two with saw-toothed roofs, are in the mid-to-late stage of construction (Figure 4).

5. (TSR) A newly graded roadbed with wide-radius turns is being constructed between the support and storage areas. A rail spur appears to be under construction and will probably connect with a rail line being built just west of the facility. The rail line will connect with the main southern rail network to Cape Town and Somerset West.

### REFERENCES

#### IMAGERY

(TSR) All available, applicable KEYHOLE imagery acquired from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was used in the preparation of this report.

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#### DOCUMENTS

1. JCS. IR 6 880 0388 78, NC 1109162, *New Armscor Facility (U)*, 101155Z Aug 79 (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. NSA. X/00/10299-79, *Technology/High Explosives: South Africa Constructing Probable Explosives Facility* [REDACTED] 032003Z Oct 79 (SECRET [REDACTED])

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED] Middle East and Free World Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [REDACTED]

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